

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are currently active.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Antecedent support for the amendments is found in Claim 2 and the figures.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by Schacherbauer.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by Edwards.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 and 7 as being anticipated by Hyde. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection these rejections. Claim 1 has the limitation of a grid formed of channels having a rounded top surface, the channels are in spaced relation with each other. The applied art of record does not teach or suggest this limitation.

Referring to Schacherbauer, there is taught a grill 44 defined by a plurality of upwardly rising nibs 46 and a plurality of oblong apertures 48 therethrough. The grid is not formed of channels each having a rounded top surface, the channels are in spaced relation.

Edwards teaches trays 40, 50 and 60 and apertures 52 in the trays. The apertures are taught to be simply next to each other throughout the trays. There is no teaching or suggestion of a grid formed of channels each having a rounded top surface, the channels are in spaced relation with each other.

Hyde teaches a litter box assembly. Hyde teaches that a grate 20 is comprised of protrusions 22 and apertures 24 as shown in figure 3. There is no teaching or suggestion of a grid formed of channels each having a rounded top surface, the channels are in spaced relation with each other and have gaps between them through which the debris falls onto the tray.

In fact, all these references actually teach away from applicant's claimed invention because they teach a solid tray or grate with holes, as opposed to spaced apart channels with gaps between the channels.

Accordingly, none of these references anticipate applicant's claimed invention of Claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-7 as being unpatentable over Schacherbauer in view of Edwards. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As

explained above, neither Schacherbauer or Edwards teaches the limitations of amended Claim 1. Claims 3-6 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 7 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over Edwards. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As explained above, Edwards does not teach or suggest, and in fact teaches away from Claim 1. Claims 3-5 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

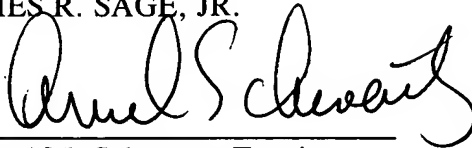
The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over Hyde in view of Edwards. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As explained above, Hyde nor Edwards teaches the limitations of amended Claim 1. Claims 3-5 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1 and 3-7, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

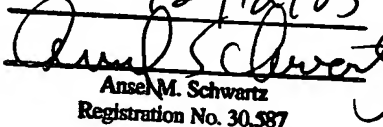
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